



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Forest Resources

Preliminary Alternatives Handout

Missoula Field Office, Resource Management Plan Revision

April, 2018



Key Points

- During revision of a resource management plan, BLM policy is to identify areas that are available and have the capacity for planned, sustained-yield timber harvest or special forest product harvest.
- The calculated sustained-yield harvest level is referred to as a Probable Sale Quantity (PSQ). The PSQ is the harvest level that can be maintained without decline over the long term if the schedule of harvests and regeneration are followed. A PSQ is not a commitment to offer for sale a specific level of timber volume every year.
- The BLM provides small forest product sales opportunities that maintain a balance between public demand and desired vegetation conditions. This practice will continue with the revised RMP. Examples of small forest product sales include, but are not limited to: firewood, Christmas trees, house logs, posts and poles, vegetative cuttings, and conifer boughs.

Alternatives

Alternative A (1986 Garnet RMP, as Amended)

Under this alternative, 105,020 acres are available for commercial forest management. Within this acreage, 7,440 acres are reserved from management for commercial products, and 64,720 acres have limited commercial management with harvest volumes reduced by 20%. The allowable annual harvest level is 7,200 thousand board feet (MBF) annually. The additional 18,141 acres added to the land base since 1986 are managed according to adjacent BLM-managed lands' allocations and direction.

Alternative B

Under Alternative B, 101,669 acres are available for commercial forest management. Within this acreage, 13,264 acres are available with limitations and 33,377 acres are unavailable. This Alternative has a PSQ of 79 million board feet per decade, assuming the BLM could harvest approximately 65% of what the acres available for commercial forest management are biologically capable of producing. This alternative emphasises moving forest conditions towards a natural range of variability (see the Forest Vegetation Fact Sheet for more information on NRV) while simultaneously providing for other resource uses (such as wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities) and resources (such as the providing timber volume).

Alternative C

In this alternative, 100,465 acres are available for commercial forest management. Within this acreage, 13,264 acres are available with limitations and 34,580 acres are unavailable. This Alternative has a PSQ of 66 million board feet per decade, assuming the BLM could harvest approximately 55% of what the acres available for commercial forest management are biologically capable of producing. This alternative emphasises function, arrangement, and additional retention of forest vegetation for wildlife habitat while moving forest conditions towards a natural range of variability.

The table and graph on the following page display how lands available for timber harvest and ASQ/PSQ vary across alternatives.



Alternatives

Forestry and Woodland Products

	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C
Allowable Sale Quantity ¹ (MMBF ²)	7.2	n/a	n/a
Probable Sale Quantity ³ (MMBF ²)- per decade ⁴	n/a	79	66
Lands available for forest management	105,020	101,669 (63%)	100,465 (62%)
Lands with management restrictions that may reduce harvest volumes	64,720	13,264 (8%)	
Lands unavailable for management of commercial products	7,440	33,377 (21%)	34,580 (22%)

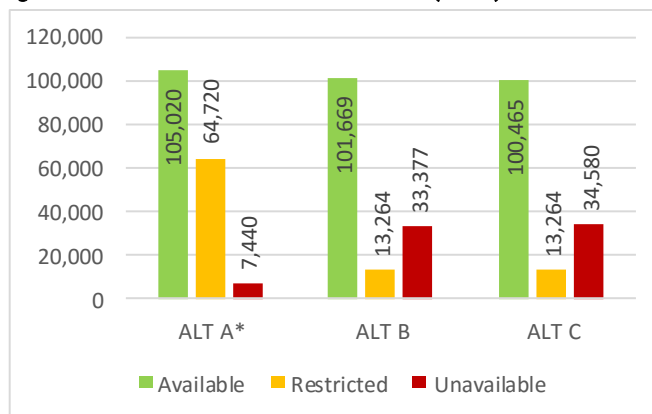
¹ Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) is the total level of timber that can be sold and harvested during a decade while assuring a continuous supply of timber in perpetuity (sustained yield). Management practices, assumptions, land use plans, and biological capacity are considered in arriving at the ASQ. The ASQ is usually made available on an average annual basis.

² MMBF= One million board feet.

³ Probable Sale Quantity (PSQ) is the calculated sustained-yield harvest level that can be maintained without a decline over the long term if a schedule of harvests and regeneration are followed. A PSQ is not a commitment to offer for sale a specific level of timber volume every year.

⁴ The 1986 Garnet RMP designated an Allowable Sale Quantity of 7.2 million board feet on an annual basis, which equates to 72 MMBF per decade. The proposed timber outputs under Alternatives B and C reflect current BLM policy of developing a PSQ, and represent the probable harvest over a decade. This approach provides harvest estimates to the timber industry for business management purposes, while allowing for fluctuations in staffing, budgets, and field office priorities.

Figure 1. Lands Available for Timber Harvest (Acres)



* Total acreage for Alternative A reflects a different land base and methodology for calculating available acres.